

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 JOHANN 01003 01 OF 02 301807Z

10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DRC-01 /089 W

----- 071174

R 301330Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3495

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 JOHANNESBURG 1003

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF
SOUTH AFRICA: HIGHLIGHTS & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

REF: JOHANNESBURG'S 733, AUGUST 20, 1973

1. CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE IN PORT ELIZABETH FROM SEPTEMBER 23
THROUGH 27 & WAS ATTENDED BY DELEGATES REPRESENTING ALL BUT ABOUT
4,000 OF TUCSA'S APPROXIMATELY 204,000 WHITE, COLOURED & INDIAN
MEMBERS (ORGANIZED IN 63 UNIONS). MOST IMPORTANT BY FAR OF 33
AGENDA ITEMS WAS PROPOSAL TO AMEND TUCSA'S CONSTITUTION TO REOPEN
MEMBERSHIP TO ALL "BONA FIDE TRADE UNIONS & BONA FIDE FEDERATIONS
OF TRADE UNIONS" (AND THUS TO RECIND "EXPEDIENT" 1968 DECISION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JOHANN 01003 01 OF 02 301807Z

TO EXCLUDE BLACK UNIONS). RESOLUTION EVENTUALLY PASSED WITH 97.74
PERCENT MAJORITY BUT NOT BEFORE SEVERAL INVITED OBSERVERS INCLUDING

REPRESENTATIVES OF PRO-HARRIET BOLTON DURBAN-BASED BLACK UNIONS & GENERALLY PRO-TUCSA LUCY MVUBELO TOOK FLOOR TO EXPRESS DOUBT ABOUT TUCSA'S SINCERITY & DETERMINATION, & IN CASE OF MVUBELO TO ASK FOR INFORMATION ON WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN ORGANIZING FIELD SINCE TUCSA VOTED UNANIMOUSLY AT LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE TO TRY TO ORGANIZE "PARALLEL" BLACK UNIONS. TUCSA LEADERS MADE VARIOUS FORMAL AND INFORMAL EFFORTS TO CONVINCE CRITICAL OBSERVERS THAT THEIR INVITATION WAS GENUINE & WHOLEHEARTED BUT ONE LEFT CONFERENCE WITH IMPRESSION THEY HAD NOT SUCCEEDED VERY WELL & THAT TUCSA'S CREDIBILITY WITH BLACK TRADE UNION PERSONALITIES HAD REACHED LOW EBB.

2. OTHER DEVELOPMENT& NON-DEVELOPMENTS:

A. TUCSA FAILED TO GIVE FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON LAST YEAR'S UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED RESOLUTION TO ORGANIZE "PARALLEL" BLACK UNIONS (THOUGH ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY ROBERT KRAFT MADE BRIEF EXTEMPORANEOUS REFERENCE ON ONE OCCASION TO 14 OR SO AFFILIATES WHICH HAD INITIATED ORGANIZING PROGRAMS, MOST OF THEM UNPUBLICIZED).

B. WHILE EXTENDING HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO PRO-HARRIET BOLTON DURBAN-BASED BLACK UNIONS TUCSA LEADERS TREATED MRS. BOLTON WITH HEAVY-HANDED HARSHNESS WHEN SHE TOOK FLOOR IN EFFORT TO EXPLAIN & DEFEND WHAT SHE HAS BEEN TRYING TO DO IN DURBAN. CHARGING HER WITH VIOLATING 1972 TUCSA POLICY DECISION AGAINST GETTING INVOLVED IN HOMELANDS POLITICS, THEY COMPLETELY IGNORED UNIQUE SUCCESS SHE HAS ACHIEVED IN EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT MORE RECENT DECISION IN FAVOR OF ORGANIZING "PARALLEL" UNIONS. THEY MANAGED TO GET BIG MAJORITY OF DELEGATES TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION TO AMEND CONSTITUTION SO AS TO ENABLE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST FUTURE MAVERICKS LIKE MRS. BOLTON BUT DID NOT SEEM TO BE AWARE OF OR TO CARE ABOUT UNFAVORABLE IMPACT THIS ACTION MIGHT HAVE ON BLACKS WITHIN CONFERENCE HALL OR WORLD IN GENERAL OUTSIDE OF HALL.

C. WITH EXCEPTION OF LUCY MVUBELO & TWO OR THREE OTHER OFFICERS OF NATIONAL UNION OF CLOTHING WORKERS NO REPRESENTATIVES OF JOHANNESBURG-BASED BLACK UNIONS ATTENDED CONFERENCE. TUCSA HAS HELD MEETINGS WITH URBAN TRAINING PROJECT-SPONSORED BLACK UNIONS IN JOHANNESBURG DURING PAST YEAR BUT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 JOHANN 01003 01 OF 02 301807Z

VARIOUS PERSONALITY & POLICY DIFFERENCES.

D. DURING ELECTION OF OFFICERS, CONFERENCE DEMOTED THE ONLY COLOURED VICE PRESIDENT, R.C. WEBB FROM SECOND TO FOURTH PLACE IN GROUP OF SIX & SIMULTANEOUSLY PROMOTED E. VAN TONDER FROM FOURTH TO FIRST PLACE. IF CONFERENCE HAD ELEVATED WEBB TO FIRST PLACE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN CLEARLY IN LINE TO BECOME TUCSA'S FIRST COLOURED PRESIDENT FOLLOWING INCUMBANCY OF TOM MURRAY WHO WAS UNOPPOSED TO SUCCEED L.C.M. SCHEEPERS AS PRESIDENT.

E. IN COMPLETE ABSENCE OF NEW OR ENCOURAGING INFORMATION ON INTENTIONS VIS A VIS SOUTH AFRICA OF BRITISH TUC & WITH DECISION (SACTU-ENGINEERED?) OF INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE, GARMENT & LEATHER WORKERS' FEDERATION TO WITHDRAW INVITATION TO SOUTH AFRICAN AFFILIATES TO ATTEND FOURTH COMING CONFERENCE IN KADUNA FOR OSTENSIBLE REASON FEDERATION WANTED TO CONFORM TO UN'S ANTI-APARTHEID POLICY, U.S. STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF U.S. FIRMS OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA PRESENTED AT START OF CONFERENCE EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED & GENERALLY REGARDED AS IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD. RAND DAILY MAIL LABOUR EDITOR JOHN IMRIE BEGAN SEPTEMBER 18 STORY WITH FOLLOWING CORRECT OBSERVATION: QTE THE UNITED STATES YESTERDAY BECAME THE FIRST FOREIGN COUNTRY TO OFFICIALLY ADVISE COMPANIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA TO NEGOTIATE WITH UNREGISTERED AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS. UNQTE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JOHANN 01003 02 OF 02 010725Z

10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DRC-01 /089 W

----- 079597

R 301330Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3496

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 ON 2 JOHANNESBURG 1003

F. ON NEXT TO LAST DAY OF CONFERENCE TUCSA GENERAL SECRETARY

ARTHUR GROBBELAAR, ADVISED BY COLLEAGUES & WELL-WISHERS TO RESPOND TO PROPOSAL OF DURBAN OBSERVERS TO CONVENE SPECIAL MEETING FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF COORDINATING ACTIVITIES OF BOTH REGISTERED & UNREGISTERED UNIONS IN SOME INDUSTRIES, PRESENTED FOLLOWING POLICY STATEMENT:

QTE TUCSA IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE AFRICAN UNION OBSERVERS AT THIS CONFERENCE EVIDENTLY FEEL THAT TUCSA IS NOT TAKING THEIR VIEWS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE AFRICAN WORKERS AS BEING OF CONCERN WHETHER THEIR ORGANIZATIONS ARE MEMBERS OF TUCSA OR NOT.(OR NOT UNDERSCORED)

QTE WITH THIS OBJECT IN MIND, TUCSA WILL HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE KNOWN AND EXISTING BONA FIDE AFRICAN UNIONS IN ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH EXACTLY WHAT THEIR VIEWS AND ASPIRATIONS ARE, AS ALSO EXPLORING NEW AREAS FOR COOPERATION. THIS STEP IS BEING TAKEN IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JOHANN 01003 02 OF 02 010725Z

RESPONSE TO APPEALS AND CRITICISMS LEVELLED DURING THE CONFERENCE AND DISPLAYS THE COUNCIL'S CONCERN WITH THE PLIGHT OF THE AFRICAN WORKERS. UNQTE.

BLACK UNION PROPOEAL TO HICH GROBBELAAR WAS RESPONDING READ AS FOLLOWS:

QTE THE TRADE UNION ADVISORY AND COORDINATING COUNCIL WHICH REPRESENTS THE FIVE UNREGISTERED UNIONS IN NATAL WITH A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 14,200 WORKERS TOGETHER WITH THE NATIONAL UNION OF CLOTHING WORKERS IN THE TRANSVAAL WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 21,000 WORKERS: BELIEVE THAT THE INCLUSION OR NON-INCLUSION INTO TKCSA OF UNREGISTERED UNIONS IS NOT THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM FACED BY THE WORKERS OF SOUTH AFRICA. THE REAL PROBLEM LIES IN THE PRESENT & FUTURE RELATIONSHIP OF INDIVIDUAL UNIONS IN TUCSA WITH EXISTING UNREGISTERED UNIONS.

QTE WE CALL ON TUCSA TO CONVENE A SPECIAL CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE THE PRESENT AREA OF OPERATION OF REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED TRADE UNIONS IN THE SAME INDUSTRIES WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO RESOLVING ANY DIFFERENCES THAT DO EXIST, AND ALSO TO EVOLVE A JOINT STRATEGY TOWARDS INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS & EMPLOYERS IN GENERAL.

QTE IN THE INTERIM WE CALL ON TUCSA UNIONS NOT TO ENTER INTO ANY INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL AGREEMENTS WITHOUT FIRST HAVING CONSULTED & REACHED PRIOR AGREEMENT WITH THE UNREGISTERED UNIONS IN THE SAME INDUSTRIES. UNQTE.

3. COMMENT: LABOR OFFICER HAD IMPRESSION THROUGHOUT CONFERENCE THAT TUCSA LEADERS & DURBAN OBSERVERS TALKING PAST EACH OTHER RATHER THAN COMMUNICATING EVEN THROUGH INCOMING PRESIDENT MURRAY, OUTGOING PRESIDENT SCHEEPERS & OTHERS MADE IMPRESSIVE SPEECHES IN SUPPORT OF CONVERTING TUCSA INTO COMPLETELY NON-RACIAL ORGANIZATION REGARDLESS OF RISKS INVOLVED. NEVERTHELESS THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT

AT END OF CONFERENCE THAT TUCSA MUST NOW GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO IMPLEMENTING POLICY STATEMENT ON JOINT CONSULTATION (SEE ABOVE) & IN

PROCESS ADOPT SUBSTANTIALLY LESS RIGID AND PATERNALISTIC STYLE OF OPERATING IF IT SERIOUSLY HOPES TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH VERY UNCONVENTIONAL SITUATION. ONE MAJOR PROBLEM WHICH SEETHED JUST BELOW SURFACE THROUGHOUT CONFERENCE WAS GROWING COLOURED FRUSTRATION & RESENTMENT AT CONTINUING PREOCCUPATION WITH BLACK DIFFICULTIES WHEN THEY REGARD THEIR OWN DIFFICULTIES AS BEING EQUALLY BAD OR WORSE. SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROBLEM BECOMES CLEARER WHEN ONE BEARS IN MIND THAT PRESENT TUCSA MEMBERSHIP OVER 60 PERCENT COLOURED & INDIAN.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 JOHANN 01003 02 OF 02 010725Z

PERHAPS, IF TRUTH BE KNOWN, PRINCIPAL OVERALL DIFFICULTY WHICH PLAGUED RATHER LOW-SPIRITED CONFERENCE WAS INABILITY OF MANY TUCSA LEADERS TO DECIDE WITHIN THEMSELVES WHETHER IT WOULD BE BETTER IN LONG RUN TO BE SWAMPED BY BLACKS FROM OUTSIDE OR INSIDE ORGANIZED TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.
GUTHRIE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS, TUSCA CONFERENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JOHANN01003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740276-0400
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974093/aaaaacjb.tel
Line Count: 243
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: JOHANNESBURG'S 733, AUGUST 20, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA: HIGHLIGHTS & CRITICAL ANALYSIS
TAGS: ELAB, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005